

Official Minutes for Webb County
Commissioners Court Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.
(APPROVED 04/10/07)

Call to order by Judge Danny Valdez

Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 5:30 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

Danny Valdez	County Judge
Frank Sciaraffa	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Jerry Garza	Commissioner, Pct. 3
Sergio "Keko" Martinez	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 22nd of March 2007. Present also were Mrs. Imelda Diaz, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court

Item No. 1. ROLL CALL BY HONORABLE MARGIE RAMIREZ-IBARRA, WEBB COUNTY CLERK

Item No. 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item No. 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 12, 2007

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 4. APPROVAL OF BILLS, PAYROLL AND MONTHLY REPORTS

Ms. Carmen Moreno, Treasurer's Department, explained the Treasurer's monthly report.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approved item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Cmr. Garza asked if someone could provide him with an update as to how many properties the County has and how many are leased and not leased. Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, advised the Court that currently the County has two pastures that are currently being leased by Simon Deutsch. He explained that the Penjamo and Llano pasture is the lease that is coming up in June.

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, advised the Court that he was not present to explain the Auditor's report at the last meeting; however, he explained that on pg. 2 of that report there was an explanation of invoices that are over \$5000.00 in which are the 3rd quarter unemployment taxes which are over and above budget. He advised that the County Treasurer should distribute all unemployment notices to the respective department so that each department head could decide whether to pay or not pay the unemployment compensation.

Item No. 5. COMMUNICATIONS

Cmr. Sciaraffa had no items under communications.

Cmr. Tijerina encouraged everyone to attend the first of a series of events that Administrative Services will be sponsoring in which she was named Chair person. She mentioned that the event would take place on Thursday, March 29, 2007 @ 5:30 p.m. Cmr. Tijerina announced that the Larga Vista and Buenos Aires Community Center in conjunction with Cmr. Jerry Garza will be having an Easter luncheon for the elderly of those centers on Tuesday, April 3, 2007. Cmr. Tijerina commended the Larga Vista Community Center staff for obtaining a 100% rating when inspected by the City of Laredo.

Cmr. Garza had no items under communications.

Cmr. Martinez reminded everyone of the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Girls Scouts/Webb County Youth Center on March 29th @ 10:30 am.

Judge Valdez had no items under communications.

Item No. 6. Public Comment-This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Commissioners Court on any items on the Agenda. Members of the public wishing to participate must complete a Witness Card specifying which agenda item they wish to comment on. Each public member will be allowed a total of three (3) minutes within which to make any/all public comments.

1ST witness card – HECTOR FARIAS

Mr. Farias advised that Court that he had issued everyone some documentation in reference to the 1st amendment. He thanked the Court for letting him speak.

2ND witness card – PATRICIA BARRERA (Webb County Tax Assessor Collector)

Ms. Barrera advised everyone especially those people in the trucking business who need to turn in their Form 2290 that the agents from the IRS will be in her office from March 27th – April 5th.

3RD witness card – MARGIE RAMIREZ IBARRA (Webb County Clerk)

Mrs. Ibarra invited everyone to the Cesar Chavez March on Saturday, March 31, 2007 @ 9:00 am. She advised that march will begin in the St. Peter's Plaza and continue on to St. Augustine.

4th witness card - JOSE R GUTIERREZ JR

Mr. Gutierrez stated he was talking against item 14. He recommended the Court to table the item and revise the contract carefully before taking any action.

Item No. 7. Discussion and possible action to proclaim April as "Head Start Month in Webb County, Texas".

Mr. Leroy Medford asked the Court if item #34 could be moved up as per Ms. Aliza Oliveros request.

Cmr. Garza motioned to move up item #34. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros, Head Start Director, presented Mrs. Basilia Peralta who would address the Court. Ms. Peralta explained how important the Head Start centers was for all children and how it has been very positive for both the parents and children. Ms. Aliza Oliveros presented 6 children who have been selected to represent the six head start programs and advised that selection was based according to parent involvement. The names were as follows: Luis Felipe Segura, Jose Ricardo Gonzalez, Zulema Ariana Peralta, Sebastian Lopez, Ana Maria Munoz, and Gerardo Gamboa.

Judge Valdez congratulated Ms. Oliveros and her staff for a job well done and read proclamation.

Item No. 34. Report from Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, on Triennial onsite monitoring review conducted from January 28, 2007 to February 2, 2007.

Ms. Aliza Oliveros thanked the Court for all their support to the Head Start Program as well as her staff. She presented the Court with a Gold Certificate of Excellence which was obtained after a Federal Review Process in which she explained that very few programs are able to obtain.

Item No. 8. Discussion and possible action to have the Commissioners Court appoint new members to the Webb County Rural Rail Transportation District.

Judge Valdez motioned to submit the names of each Commissioner's appointee by Friday to Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Executive Administrator to the Commissioner's Court. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 9. Presentation by the Webb County Rural Rail Transportation District on the status of the Colombia-Webb County Rail Bridge Project.

Mr. Carlos Villarreal presented the Court with a status report of the Columbia-Webb County Rail Bridge Project in which he explained that the project was making substantial progress. He thanked Dr. Hector Farias for initially bringing this to the Court four years ago and also the past Commissioner's Court.

Cmr. Sciaraffa thanked Dr. Hector Farias and Mr. Carlos Villarreal for a job well done.

Judge Valdez explained that he was amazed of how much work the committee has done in the three months he has been in office and commended both the committee and Mr. Carlos Villarreal.

Mr. Carlos Villarreal commended Mr. Leroy Medford and Mr. Tomas Rodriguez for their hard work on their recent trip to Washington.

Cmr. Tijerina thanked everyone for a job well done and asked Dr. Hector Farias if he would like to say some words. Dr. Farias thanked the Commissioner's Court for their support towards the Rail District and explained the difference that this project would make on the community.

Cmr. Garza thanked Dr. Farias for his contribution towards the Rail District and commended everyone on a job well done.

Item No. 10. Status report on the "Youth Village" by Mr. Eduardo Quiroga of Frank Architects Inc.

Mr. Eduardo Quiroga, Frank Architects Inc., thanked the Court for the opportunity to present the status report. Mr. Frank Rotnofsky, Frank Architects Inc., explained that the project was on schedule and advised the Court that the projected date for completion was April 2008; however, there are some weather delays.

Judge Valdez asked Ms. Melissa Mojica, Juvenile Probation Director, what the initial concept of the Youth Village was? Ms. Mojica explained that it consisted of Probation Offices, Detention Center, JJAEP, and a Drug Rehabilitation Center; however, now there were only Probation offices and the Detention Center. Judge Valdez asked Mr. Quiroga if he could bring back to the Court estimation as to how much it would cost to bring back the JJAEP and the Detention Center since there were some monies that had been received for JJAEP use. Cmr. Garza explained that he would like for Ms. Mojica to obtain written notification from LISD as to what the proper use for these funds was since LISD was waiting for legal clarification. Mr. Leo Flores advised the Court that the 1st installment of over \$400,000.00 was scheduled to be received on March 15, 2007; however, no monies have been received yet.

Item No. 11. Discussion and possible action to transfer the following slots:
Slot #2325 FROM Department 1045 (Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Place 2)
TO Department 0106 (Building Maintenance)
Slot #2064 FROM Department 0106 (Building Maintenance)
TO Department 6105 (Rio Bravo Community Center)

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Mr. Carlos Villarreal excused himself from the Court at 6:39 p.m.

Item No. 12. Discussion and possible action to transfer the following slot and available funding to be effective March 27, 2007 until September 30th, 2007.
Slot # 2346 FROM Department 6113 (Buenos Aires Community Center)
To Department 1011 (County Court at Law #2)

Cmr. Garza advised the Court that there was a correction on the Department to which the slot was to be transferred and should read Constable Pct. #4 Dept. 2502.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item with correction to department number. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 13. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Road & Bridge Superintendent to dismantle the water dispenser located at Killam Int'l Blvd and Mines Road on Robert Muller's property effective April 16, 2007, and authorizing the County Engineer to look for another site.
[Requested by Mr. Robert Muller]

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

MEDIA BREAK (6:40 P.M. TO 6:55 PM)

Item No. 14. Discussion and possible action to rescind the design build agreement with Professional Golf Services, LP as approved by the Webb County Commissioners Court meeting of October 10 & 11, 2006, and enter into a Design Build Agreement with Professional Golf Services, LP for golf course renovations at the Webb County Golf Course in the amount of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$282,000.00), and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Engineering Department; Account Number 665-6001-8601]

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to table item. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 15. Discussion and possible action to enter into an agreement with the Laredo Webb County Food Bank DBA South Texas Food Bank for distribution of food to the Meals on Wheels/ Elder Nutrition Programs and Authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Community Action Agency]

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Cmr. Garza asked Mr. Nathan Bratton, County Attorney's office, if any money was involved; to which Mr. Bratton answered no.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 16. Discussion and possible action to enter into an agreement with Reliant Energy for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (Reliant Energy CARE Program) whereby Reliant Energy will provide a total of TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$24,000.00) in funding to Webb County Community Action Agency (WCCAA) for clients of Reliant Energy that meet the WCCAA's hardship criteria to pay home energy expenses in an amount not to exceed THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) annually per client, through December 31, 2007 and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Requested by Community Action Agency]

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 17. Discussion and possible action to approve the form of the 2007/2008 Third Party Application, set submission dates and deadlines for application for Third Party Funding and any matters incident thereto.

Mr. Nathan Bratton explained that this item was placed on the agenda by the County Attorney's office and advised that the submission date would be from April 2nd through May 15th.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve the submission and deadline dates. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Martinez advised the Court that he wants to implement random audits for all 3rd party funding. Mr. Bratton explained that auditing could be performed based on the limitations that both groups of funding have since the contracts state that random auditing can take place. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, advised the Court that he will implement a tool for audits to occur.

Cmr. Sciaraffa advised Mr. Bratton that all applications should be brought back to the Court and that they should not be placed on agenda before the Court revises them.

Item No. 18. Discussion and possible action to enter into an agreement with The Mapus Investment Group No. 1, Ltd. to dedicate a public right-of-way across a tributary of the Chacon Creek, located approximately three hundred fifty feet north of State Highway 59 and 1400 feet east of the Lake Casa Blanca Dam service road (to be constructed and improved at Mapus Investment's sole cost and expense) and accept the fee simple ownership of an approximate .6574 acre tract and authorize the County Judge to sign all relevant documents, including but not limited to the approved plat of the property dedicating the county owned land as a public right-of-way, and any matters incident thereto. [Requested by Engineering Agreement]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 19. Discussion and possible action to approve the transfer of one investigator's position from the Zapata County Sheriff's office to the Webb County District Attorney's office. This position is under the South Texas Anti-Violence Project (Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant). The transfer of \$26,658.40 for salaries plus \$9,324.75 fringe benefit for a total of \$35,983.15 from contractual account (284-1100-6023) to payroll account (284-1100-5001) to be retroactive to 03/09/07. This transfer will have no impact on the budget.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Cmr. Sciaraffa asked if approval would affect next year's budget; to which Mr. Raul Hinojosa, District Attorney's Office, responded that it will not have an impact being that they have already applied for a grant that would fund this position next year. He mentioned that this action does not require approval from the Zapata County Commissioner's Court and that since position was to be retroactive being that the person had been employed since May 9, 2007, monies will have to be reimbursed to the District Attorney's Forfeiture Account since the position was getting paid from such account.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 20. Discussion and possible action to add a 2006 Dodge Ram Pick-up Vin. Number 1S7HU182X6S649603, to the fleet of vehicles used by the District Attorney's Office DEA Task force.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Cmr. Martinez asked if this was a forfeiture vehicle; to which Mr. Leroy Medford answered yes.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 21. Status report on the Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Law Enforcement Aviation Technology Program. Memorandum is between the Webb County Sheriff's Department, Border Research and Technology Center, United States Department of Justice and National Institute of Justice for the use of a Rans6-6ES Coyote II N43822 aircraft.

Ms. Cynthia Mares, Administrative Services Director, advised the Court that six companies were contacted to which two declined, two have submitted a quote, and two are still pending submission. She explained that the premium payment would come from the Sheriff's account.

Cmr. Garza asked if operation of the aircraft would be funded through the Sheriff's office for as long as it was in existence and why were the deputies only obtaining twenty hours of training when the requirements were forty hours. Major Gonzalez explained that the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) would cover for all training necessary and that he would bring back to the Court a response on the training requirements. Ms. Mares advised the Court that Worker's Compensation would cover the deputies if involved in an accident and that the life insurance would be covered under the accidental/death situation. She advised the Court that she would still do some research to bring back to the Court.

Item No. 22. Discussion and possible action to approve the following line item transfers:
From: 001-2001-6402 Repairs & Maint. Equipment 10,000.00
001-2600-6022 Professional Services 20,000.00
To: 001-2060-6401 Repairs & Maint. Buildings 20,000.00
001-2600-6202 Uniforms 10,000.00

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Valdez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 23. Discussion and possible action to approve the following changes for personnel of the Webb County Sheriff's Department effective March 16, 2007. The salary increases are equal to the salary decreases and the amount of personnel costs budgeted for fiscal year 2006-2007 remain unchanged.
Department 2003-Sheriff's Administration – Non-Bargaining Unit
Slot # 417 Administrative Assistant decrease annual salary \$47,111 to \$46,378
Slot # 419 Bonds Clerk increase annual salary \$20,379 to \$21,112
Department 2061-Sheriff's Non-Bargaining Unit
Slot # 563 Comm Affairs Clerk increase annual salary \$22,941 to \$33,280

Slot # 562 Head Cook decrease annual salary \$34,403 to \$25,730
Slot # 572 Maintenance II decrease annual salary \$28,676 to \$27,010

Cmr. Garza asked Major JJ Gonzalez what the reasons were for the changes made on these slots. Major Gonzalez explained that when somebody leaves their current position they are not hired at the current rate but at the starting rate. Cmr. Garza explained that to his knowledge there was a provision that general orders should not get amended. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, advised that general orders should not get amended. Cmr. Sciaraffa asked how the rates were figured out; to which Major Gonzalez explained that it was based on years of experience and that the 5% has been included in the calculations. Cmr. Martinez asked Mr. Nathan Bratton if the Court had the authority to reject such changes; to which Mr. Bratton answered yes. Cmr. Garza advised that he would like something implemented so that these situations of deviation from the general orders do not occur in the future.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to table item. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 24. Discussion and possible action to authorize Tax Assessor-Collector to provide proceeds from payroll for security guards needed to secure Tax Office during remodeling process after regular working hours. [Account Number 001-0700-5001]

Ms. Patricia Barrera, Tax Assessor Collector, explained that the funds would come out of the savings not used from October through February. She advised that Court that a Sheriff Deputy would be paid for overtime which would total an approximate of \$2,100.00.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 25. Discussion and possible action approve the following line item transfer:
From: Acct 001-1041-6402 Repair & Maint. Equip \$720.00
To: Acct 001-1041-6205 Materials & Supplies \$680.00
Acct 001-1041-5601 Administrative Travel \$40.00
Community Action Agency

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 26. Discussion and possible action to authorize payment of invoice # 588445 in the amount of \$159.10 payable to Propane Energy LTD to refuel El Aguila bus # 71 with propane. Invoice #588445 was left out of P.O. #142762. [Requested by Mr. Mike Kazen; Account Number 980-4205-6204]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 27. Discussion and possible action to accept a check in the amount of \$731.21 from Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. [Requested by Mr. Mike Kazen; Account Number 920-4200-6004]

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 28. Discussion and possible action to proclaim April 2007 as Fair Housing Month and April 16th – 20th as Fair Housing Week and designating the Webb County Community Action Agency responsible for monitoring Fair Housing in Webb County.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 29. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation from the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) and the Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to allow site location of an axial wind turbine built by students at United High School's Engineering and Technology Magnet Program to be located at the Webb County Self-Help Center Tool Library on HWY 359 for the purpose of providing off-grid alternative energy for parking lot security light.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Cmr. Martinez mentioned that he was concerned as to the liability of the students when working with the turbine; to which Ms. Peggy Warren advised that most of the work would be done at the school premises, however, some work was to be done onsite.

Ms. Cynthia Mares, Administrative Services Director, advised the Court that in discussion with Mr. Juan Vargas he had already taken the necessary precautions so that the school does take care of any liability that could arise.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 30. Discussion and possible action to accept a grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Home contract #1000494, for housing rehabilitation in the amount of \$70,261 (grant) with no county match and authorizing the county judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Martinez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 31. Discussion and possible action approve the following line item transfer:
From: Acct 001-6101-5601 Administrative Travel \$1200.00
To: Acct 001-1041-6205 Janitorial Supplies \$400.00
Acct 001-6161-6205 Materials & Supplies \$800.00

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 32. Discussion and possible action approving deduct Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$1,098.00, final payment and retainage to Zertuche Construction, Inc. for the Villa Antigua Border Heritage Museum and Parking Improvements Project. The Contract amount will decrease from \$1,236,213.00 to \$1,235,115.00. [Requested by Zertuche Construction; Account Number 677-8102-8609, 725-8102-8609, 677-2311 and 725-2311]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 33. Discussion and possible action approving Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$10,699.59, to Prada Construction, Inc. for the Rio Bravo South Activity Center. The Contract amount of \$456,800.00 will not increase due to the fact that we are reducing the Betterment Fund Allowance Line Item from \$18,000.00 to \$7,300.41. [Park Development Series 2003 & 2006]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 35. Discussion and possible action to authorize the submission of a grant application to the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office for the continuation of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program, and further authorizing the County Judge, the County Auditor, and the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer to execute all forms relevant to said grant. [Requested by Melissa L. Mojica; Account Number Fund 159]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 36. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase three (3) patrol vehicles from PhilPot Motors in the amount of \$105,000.00 from Certificates of Obligation 2006 Series. [Requested by Constable Tino Juarez]

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, advised that Court that Constable Tino Juarez had changed vehicle purchase amount to one vehicle which would total \$38,286.00.

Cmr. Martinez asked what type of vehicle would be purchased; to which Mr. Ramirez answered that it would be a crown Victoria.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to purchase one vehicle. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Mr. Ramirez advised the Court that he would explain to Constable Tino Juarez that since a vehicle is being purchased there would be a need for him to retire a unit.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 37. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase Forty Four (44) Body Armor Vest Threat Level III and Four (4) Tactical Body Armor Vest in the amount of \$17,996.00 from Gall's Safety Equipment Co. for the Webb County Sheriff's Department. Fund: U.S. Department of Justice Grant, Account No. 305-2001-7211-06 BAL: \$18,624.68. [Requested by Major J.J. Gonzalez; Account Number 305-2001-7211-06]

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 38. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase Thirteen (13) Hand Guns Model No. P226R in the amount of \$7,787.00 from Sigarms, Inc. for the Webb County Sheriff's Department. Fund: Federal Forfeiture. [Requested by Major J.J. Gonzalez; Account Number 170-2001-6228]

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 39. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for Fourteen (14) 4 door trucks and Two (2) SUV's for the Webb County Sheriff's Department. [Requested by Major J.J. Gonzalez; Account Number (Grant 2006-DD-BX-0504) \$642,000]

Cmr. Martinez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Major J.J. Gonzalez, Sheriff's Office, advised the Court that an account has been established which would be # 326-2001-8801.

Cmr. Garza asked if the vehicles were going to be used for patrolling; to which Major Gonzalez answered no because they were going to be unmarked units used for surveillance and/or for investigation purposes.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 40. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the Penjamo & Llano Pastures Lease for hunting and grazing.

Cmr. Garza motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 41. Discussion and possible action to authorize Dept. 7002, Road & Bridge to fill the following slot: Slot #677 Maintenance Aide \$9.60/hr.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 42. Discussion and possible action to develop and submit a contract amendment for TCDP 724003 Webb County Self Help Center (SHC) Project requesting a 12 month time extension from May 2, 2007 to May 1, 2008 and including a budget amendment in order to re-direct efforts to Housing Rehab activities. This action will have no impact on the county general fund.

Cmr. Tijerina motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 43. Discussion and possible action to authorize the filling of Slot #2002-Construction Coordinator, at a pay rate not to exceed \$36,250 annually to be paid from the Webb County Self Help Center budget at no cost to the county general fund, effective March 27, 2007.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Tijerina seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Sciaraffa motioned to go into executive session. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Executive Session 8:00 pm TO 9:00 pm

Cmr. Garza motioned to bring back communications. Judge Valdez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Judge Valdez advised everyone that he had received a phone call from State Representative Richard Raymond stating that the Rail Legislation was unanimously voted out of committee. Judge Valdez thanked Representative Richard Raymond and Brian Guillen for their support on this important issue.

Judge Valdez stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Item No. 44. Discussion and possible action regarding Cause No. L-06-85; Guillermo Garcia vs. Webb County; In the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Laredo Division, and any matters incident thereto. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Cmr. Martinez motioned to table item. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Item No. 45. Discussion and possible action regarding mediation in Satterfield & Pontikes, Inc. v. Webb County, Texas and any matters incident thereto. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Mr. Nathan Bratton advised the Court that no action was needed being that it was just a status report to the Court.

Item No. 46. Discussion and possible action regarding Cause No. 06-1079; *The City of Laredo, Texas v. Martha Escamilla, et al*; In the Supreme Court of Texas, and any matters incident thereto. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Mr. Nathan Bratton advised the Court that no action was needed being that it was just a status report to the Court.

Item No. 47. Discussion and possible action regarding Cause No. GV-403943; *Webb County, Texas v. Greg Abbott, et al*; In the 261st Judicial District Court of Travis, County Texas; and any matters incident thereto. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Mr. Nathan Bratton advised the Court that no action was needed being that it was just a status report to the Court.

Item No. 48. Discussion and possible action regarding *Application of Regional Land Management Services, Ltd., for Permit No. 2286, TQEQ Docket No. 2003-0729-MSW; SOAH Docket No. 582-04-0975*; and any matters incident thereto. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Mr. Nathan Bratton advised the Court that no action was needed being that it was just a status report to the Court.

Item No. 49. Discussion and possible action regarding legal matter titled *Webb County v. Electronic Systems and Software, Inc.*, and any matters incident thereto. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Mr. Nathan Bratton advised the Court that no action was needed being that it was just a status report to the Court.

Item No. 50. Adjournment

Cmr. Garza motioned to adjourn meeting. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.